

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2005

Attendance*:

Members Present:

Debbie Braam
Bob Coen
Buddy Green
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Joan Loftus
Rhia Perry
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Susan Austin
Angela Barnett
Stacey Hull
Keith Lewis

* Also in attendance: Kathy Halliday of the Division of Rehabilitation Services. The Commission has voted to recommend Ms. Halliday to the County Executive to fill the vacancy created by Carol Roughton's resignation.

- I. Chairperson Buddy Green called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the August 22, 2005 Commission meeting were approved with correction.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee: Membership: The Commission's recommendations for reappointment to the Commission, (Susan Austin, Angela Barnett, Gil Kennedy, Laurie Kwiedorowicz, Rhia Perry and Marc Weinstein), as well as the

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



recommendation for appointment of Kathy Halliday to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Carol Roughton, have been forwarded to the County Executive for review.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Despite continued referrals to the program, no ramps have been built to date. Gil Kennedy and Sharon Grzanka will follow-up with Beth Hendrix, Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services and Manager of the Community Development Program, the funding source for the ramps program.
2. Housing: The strategic planning committee of the Housing Coalition of Harford County has been meeting to determine the coalition's direction and membership. The committee will meet with Allison Ladd of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development on October 3rd and members of the committee will be attending the Governor's Housing Conference on October 18th. More to follow.
3. Joppatowne High School: Councilman Guthrie reported that improvements to the ramp to the back entrance of the high school have been completed. He added that upgrades to the front entrance will be completed after approval of required architectural drawings.

C. Education Committee: Committee Chairperson Debbie Braam, reported that the Expo will be held on March 18, 2006; that Save the Date postcards have been sent to the exhibitor mailing list; and that exhibitor registration forms will be mailed in November. In the meantime, workshop presenters are being contacted and booked. The next meeting of the Expo Planning Committee will be held on October 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School."

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Legislative Committee: No new information.

2. Commission web page: Chairperson Bob Coen recommended that the Commission consider changes to the web page that would provide links to disability-related information directly from the home page. He suggested that members visit the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities web page for an example. The subcommittee will consider developing recommendations to the full Commission.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: No report.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee: The Transportation Steering Committee met on September 21st. Subscription Service ridership continues to grow as does the number of individuals trained to use public transportation to travel to employment. The steering committee is planning to apply to send a team to the Project Action 2006 Mobility Planning Services Institute in Washington, D.C., April 22-25, 2006. The Subscription Service Subcommittee will meet on October 11th at Harford Transit.
- B. Emergency Preparedness:
 1. Commissioner Angie Barnett is representing the Commission on Disabilities on the County's emergency preparedness exercise planning committee. The committee is planning an exercise scheduled to take place in Spring 2006.
 2. JoAnne Knapp, Director of Emergency Preparedness for the Maryland Department of Disabilities will meet with Harford County Emergency Planners and Department of Community Services personnel on October 31st. More information to follow.
- C. Commission on Disabilities Annual Report: The report is to be prepared for the County Executive by the October 24, 2005 Commission meeting. A draft report will be circulated to members for review and comment via email prior to October 24th.

- D. The December meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, December 19, 2005 because the 4th Monday of the month, December 26th is a holiday. The Commission will meet on December 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School”.
- E. The Harford County Mental Health Town Hall Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2005, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the McFaul Activities Center in Bel Air. A light supper will be served. For more information and to register to attend this free event, contact Tammy Fine, Mental Health Association of Maryland, 410-235-1178, ext 201.

VI. New Business:

- A. Commission on Disabilities Interview on Harford Cable Network (HCN): the Commission will be the focus of HCN’s Harford MagaScene Program in December 2006. Proposed segments will include: background on the Commission, transportation, services for transitioning youth and the upcoming Expo for Individuals with Disabilities, universal design and accessibility, and the 2006 Maryland Youth Leadership Forum. Taping will take place in the first two weeks of November.
- B. Updating Commission Brochure: A subcommittee will review the Commission brochure and make recommendations for updates.
- C. The Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Club in Bel Air. Tickets are \$16.00. For more information and tickets, contact Sharon Grzanka.

VII. Announcements and Public Comment: Pete Raimondi updated the Commission on his advocacy efforts with regard to battery operated shopping carts in shopping malls: a recent article in The Aegis that highlighted his efforts; response to a recent interview on Harford Cable Network; and that Scott Gibson of Senator Hooper’s office has indicated that the Senator is considering legislation which would

provide a tax credit to retail establishments that purchase battery-operated shopping carts.

- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, October 24, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.